

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
initializing a pseudo-random number generator (PRNG);  
obtaining local seeding information from a host;  
securely obtaining additional seeding information from one or more remote  
entropy servers, wherein the securely obtaining of the seeding information  
from the one or more remote entropy servers is repeated for redundant  
entropy servers; and  
stirring the PRNG with the local seeding information and the additional seeding  
information.
2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the initializing of the  
PRNG comprises initializing an internal state of the PRNG with a random value.
3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the random value  
comprises a seed.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more remote  
entropy servers maintain random state pool to supply the host with the random  
value.
6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the securely obtaining of  
the seeding information from the one or more remote entropy servers includes  
using a privacy protocol.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the privacy protocol comprises secure  
sockets layer (SSL) protocol.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the privacy protocol comprises transport layer security (TLS) protocol.
9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the stirring of the PRNG comprises producing a cryptographically random stream of bits.

Claims 10-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) An entropy enhancing system comprising:  
a local system ~~comprising~~ including a host ~~and, the local system further comprising~~ a pseudo-random number generator (PRNG), the local system to  
initialize the PRNG, ~~to obtain~~ by obtaining local seeding information from  
the host,  
securely obtain additional seeding information from one or more remote  
entropy servers, and  
~~stirring~~ stir the PRNG with the local seeding information and the  
additional seeding information; and  
the one or more remote systems ~~comprising~~ including the one or more entropy  
servers to securely provide the additional seeding information to the local  
system, wherein the securely providing of the additional seeding  
information to the local system from the one or more entropy servers is  
repeated for redundant entropy servers.
18. (Currently Amended) The entropy enhancing system of claim 17, wherein the  
local system ~~to generate~~ generates the local seeding information at the host.

19. (Currently Amended) The entropy enhancing system of claim 17, wherein the one or more remote systems ~~to generate~~generates the remote seeding information at the one or more entropy servers.
20. (Previously Amended) The entropy enhancing system of claim 17, wherein the entropy servers comprise one or more of the following: hardware and software.

Claims 21-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data ~~comprising-representing~~ sets of instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:
- initialize a pseudo-random number generator (PRNG);
- obtain local seeding information from a host;
- securely obtain additional seeding information from one or more remote entropy servers, wherein the securely obtaining of the seeding information from the one or more remote entropy servers is repeated for redundant entropy servers; and
- stir the PRNG with the local seeding information and the additional seeding information.
26. (Previously Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the initializing of the PRNG comprises initializing an internal state of the PRNG with a random value.
27. (Previously Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the random value comprises a seed.
28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the one or more remote entropy servers maintain random state pool to supply the host with the random value.
30. (Previously Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the stirring of the PRNG comprises producing a cryptographically random stream of bits.